

Evening Lesson. 1 Cor. 12.

MAY 28 1973

Text. Acts 2.1.

In these verses St Luke relates one of the great events in the calendar of Christianity; a marvellous proof of the Deity of Jesus Christ; His eternal Sonship. He descended to the lower parts of the earth to accomplish the work of redemption; to restore honour to the law; to reconcile God and sinners; to expiate the sins of His elect and to be the fulfilling end of the ceremonial law. He "ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things." and the supreme proof is, He bestowed a set time, - "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come", - the time to bestow the gifts and influences of the Spirit of God in supreme measure on His waiting disciples and all His beloved people. O the sublimity, the profundity, beauty and glory of the gift of baptising anointing, filling of the soul with the Holy Ghost! You will see and know that this is of tremendous importance. If I enunciate a few points, one is, by one Spirit we are baptised into one body and Christ the Head. The filling of the soul with the Holy Ghost is the distribution of spiritual gifts and graces requisite to your heavenly calling and to your office and ministry here below in the Church of God. So in the heavenly anointing

and baptism, gracious, chosen souls receive special gifts from heaven. This gives them ~~th~~ holy authority, divine warrant, and enables them to fulfil their calling.

There are many exhortations, and dehortations, holy precepts, royal statutes written in the Book of God and in your hearts, and how are you to obey and fulfil them? By the filling of your soul with the Holy Ghost. No one will attain to the spiritual ethics written in the manual only as they have the filling of their souls with the Spirit, by grace "teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, - how can we do that without heavenly anointing? - we should live soberly, fighteously and godly in this present world." (Titus 2.12). The title in Titus is; "Teaching us how to live in this world." Here is a complete manual. It is impossible for us to obey the precepts and the holy laws of God unless we have a supreme measure of the Holy Ghost. Something needs to be appended. It is solemn if we merely read the exhortations and excuse ourselves and turn over the pages. We need a measure of the Spirit so these things are accomplished in our souls. We need the supreme attraction of Christ and the denying of ourselves to take up our cross and follow Him. "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth." (Col.3.5.) It means a complete weaning from the flesh and everything of the world. I have felt a little of this to day, so it comes fresh from my soul to you. The filling of your soul with holy unction will detach you from ~~the~~ all that is sublunary. It will attach you to the Lord, to heaven, to the Scriptures, to purity, to holiness. It is by holy anointing.

I closed this morning on the word day, so I will take up the subject from that point. This greatly interests me. "And when the day of Pentecost was come? No; "fully come". The Lord had an appointed time, and He knew His divine wisdom when He ordained the feast of Pentecost to be fifty days after the Passover; - fifty days after His Resurrection. You will remember we set in contrast day and night. We spoke of the night that descended when Satan tempted our first parents and the fall took place. In many ways the night still remains. How dark the world is! It is a wilderness to a child of God. You will say;

"What is this world to me?
This world is not my home;
A scene of pain, of grief, and woe;
When will my Saviour come?" (948)

This Sanctuary is not a dark place. Where the Lord is it is full of light
"The path of the just, is as the shining light, that shineth more and
more unto the perfect^{day}." (Prov.4.18) This is taking you to the glory of
immortal bliss.

We spoke of the darkness felt by a sinner under the law, condemned
to die, fearing you are about to be consigned to the pit, eternally
banished from God. But the Day has dawned with the incarnation, the
Advent of the Saviour, the Sun of Righteousness arising. O the Day! Do
you know in your soul the dayspring from on high? the root and offspring
of David, and the bright and morning star? This is light. So when He
arose in the heavens it was day. This dark world knew the birth of a
Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. We can appreciate and feel to be
wonderful in Creation the dawn chorus of the birds. Do you sing? Does
your soul sing as the day dawns? and does the dawn spell out to you
the beginning of an everlasting day? "Thy sun shall no more go down;
neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine
everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended." (Isa, 60, 2)
What a day!

We referred to the day dawn when He rose from the tomb. If He had
remained in the tomb there would have been no preaching: it would have
been in vain. Could the sun ever have risen again? He is risen. When
He said to the dear woman, "Mary, she turned herself, and saith unto
him, Rabboni." - the Lord is risen: what a day! It is said too, when He
ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and received gifts for men;
"yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them."
(Psa.68.18) What a day! When He bestowed, anointed, baptised the waiting
disciples with the Holy Ghost, - they had never been filled with such
joy, peace, light, wisdom. - "when the day of Pentecost was fully come"
When He poured out His Spirit the gospel day had begun, and we are
living in it. It is the gospel day. Few people desire it, but there are

precious souls who do. We have the Holy Scriptures and Christ's ascension gift of the preaching of the gospel. This makes it a gospel day. The remnant still have the preaching of the gospel of redemption: there are God-anointed men who promulgate the everlasting gospel. We have nothing to glory in, only the Lord. It is a holy anointing; a divine warrant, for you know what Toplady speaks about. With all his education he was amazed because he says deliverance was preached from a farm wagon by an illiterate farm worker, and it flowed into his soul. There is the foot, the eye, the comely and the uncomely parts of the body: there is a blending and a oneness because the body has many members. There is no disharmony between the members of the body. It is a complete system; the sympathetic and the nervous system; the nerves are devoted to that one purpose. If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it.

Now the word, fully come. I was thinking about it this morning, and I saw the depth couching beneath in it. Why fully come? It is indicative of what preceded it; the glorious Trinity, the boundless love of God, the decrees of God, the will and purpose of God, the counsel of peace and the covenant of grace made with Jesus: the incarnation of my Saviour, His Suretyship, the fulfilling of all His Suretyship, restoring honour to the law, expiating sins, weaving a robe of righteousness, suffering vicariously, being buried, rising again, ascending, being enthroned, interceding. That is why At Luke says by the Spirit, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come." Everything had to be accomplished before the day could fully come. It applies to experience "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come." There could never be an entering into it until the Lord had given you a being. He does not bestow grace on one who has no being. So bless God for your creation: think of the wonder of it! so that God might show forth His love and praise in you! We had to be born. We bless Him for our creation, so that He could magnify His grace, love, choice, His divine will and eternal Covenant sure! You must have a new creation: you must be a guilty, confessing sinner, a penitent soul. Christ must be revealed to you. At a point in time decreed by God you will know the day of Pentecost is fully come. I am sure the friends will appreciate this line

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of meditation.

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come." This is a mine for you to explore in heaven: you will never know it fully here. Do you see the beauty? It takes in the spiritual realm, the realm of divine Providence, God's dispensations. Elijah is taken up: another takes his mantle. Things are brought to an issue; they ripen; all is in perfect order. The glorious proof of the virtue of the Atonement of Christ was His Resurrection. The proof of His Resurrection was that He ascended into heaven. The proof that He ascended into heaven was, "he hath shed forth this."- the Holy Ghost. Everything was in perfect order. O the glory of the plan! of the wisdom that effected it, and in our lives. The Father and redeemed mortals were reconciled. So the day of Pentecost was fully come. Mercy did not say one thing and Justice another: all the attributes were in perfect harmony. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1.9) He would be unjust if He did not forgive you.

They were in a blessed state: they were all;- there was no exception. "They were all with one accord." in sweetest, holy, spiritual love: there was melody. We read in the preceding chapter; "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren." They were all at His feet,- all with one accord. Why? Because they had "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." It is an anticipated preparation for heavenly enjoyment. They could never expect it if they were in discord. It was the Spirit's work to prepare them for the filling of the Spirit. People of God are brought here, in one accord. There is a tremendous variety in life: all are brought to one place. There will be times when you will be in this sweet, holy, heavenly experience, and you will know, enjoy, and bless God for it, and it will be a foretaste of heaven. It seems as though not a dog moves his tongue. (Exod. 11.7.) The supreme attraction of Christ is so great, all view the Lamb in a feeling sense of being the chief of sinners, "Other Refuge have I none." It is heavenly. "They were all with one accord." You are in one accord with the Trinity; Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:

with all the glorified saints, with those on earth, and with those in the womb of the ~~the~~ covenant yet to be born. How priceless this is! Do you think the Lord has forsaken His people? I know He has not. He is with us in abundant measure. Ruth Beesley used to say; "Too sweet for words;"

"They were all with one accord in one place" - in the city of Jerusalem. What is the one place? In the heart of God. "In His heart they have a place." (720) "At His throne their sins confessing." (918)- at the foot of the cross. "May I sit for ever viewing " (158)- "in one place." And they will be in one place, for ever with the Lord. Amen.